

Citizens Advisory Committee for Marietta Parks (CACMP)  
Minutes of the Meeting on March 18, 2010  
Fire Station #1, Training Room

A public meeting of CACMP was called to order promptly at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Jim King. All members were present except Randy Weiner and Michael Helenek.

**The proposed minutes of the March 4, 2010, CACMP meeting were adopted unanimously after a motion by Melody Unger and a second by Ford Bohannon and after two corrections offered by Deborah Huwaldt were incorporated. The final version as amended has been filed with the City.**

Deborah Huwaldt has created a spread sheet to help systematize the evaluation of the assets and needs of each park and Jim King has posted it on the web site.

Betty Hunter had suggested to Jim King that CACMP approach Life College about helping with the linkage of Burruss and Wildwood parks. Betty and Johnny Sinclair have agreed to work together on making that approach on behalf of CACMP. Jim King announced that the City will approach the military on the same subject, that Rich Buss has approval to contract with a Project Manager, and the City will solicit offers of donation or sale of potential park property, all as we recommended at the last meeting.

Jim King solicited committee reports:

The Burruss and Wildwood committee offered no report.

Betty Hunter announced that the Trail and Connectivity Committee will work with Life College on proposing a solution to connectivity. They will also meet with Dan Cox of the Marietta History Museum seeking information about signage and site issues. They are also talking about historic aspects of the City's existing and proposed trails.

The Real Estate Acquisition Committee and the Proposed New Parks Committee met jointly on Monday. Heath Garrett announced that those committees discussed the report of the Recreation Center Committee made at the last meeting that the new recreation center be built on the site of the existing Elizabeth Porter Recreation Center and that it front North Marietta Parkway, a major access route for Marietta citizens, and that the property be expanded to support a new comprehensive recreation center. **Reverend Walter Moon moved that CACMP recommend that the Elizabeth Porter Recreation Center remain at the present general location, that the city immediately begin the process of expanding the site as required to sustain a comprehensive facility, and that the new facility front North Marietta Parkway. Ford Bohannon seconded the motion. 12 members voted in favor of the motion and Deborah Huwaldt voted against it.** Heath Garrett further reported that the Real Estate Acquisition Committee recommends that a formal weighted property evaluation system was discussed and that the committee members prefer a more flexible system to make judgments about properties. **Heath Garrett moved that property merits be considered in view of three criteria: Property considered will:**

1. Not be less than one acre tracts **UNLESS** contiguous with other city owned property **OR** a key property of historical significance.
2. Provide positive environmental, recreational, and economic impact to the city of Marietta.
3. Benefit geographically underserved areas of the city **OR** provide strategic importance to the parks system.

The motion was seconded by Larry Ceminsky and the motion was approved unanimously.

Cindy Suto and Walter Moon reported on the work of the Park Improvement and Rehabilitation Committee. They have concentrated on Hickory Hills Park and there was considerable discussion about whether it should be a largely passive park or be the center of a soccer complex for competitive team play. There was also discussion about the need for more community input into the plans, as opposed to relying on the considerable effort to gather opinions about the issue during the development of the proposed comprehensive parks plan. There was discussion about an informal plan that was circulating among city officials that describes a passive park that may satisfy the CDBG requirements that any park on the site contain a walking track, a soccer area and a general play field. **Cindy Suto moved that the aforementioned informal plan be produced at the next meeting, that the Council make Hickory Hills Park a priority for development, and that CACMP have a special meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> to consider recommending the merits of the informal plan to the City Council. Mitch Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was announced as 11 in favor of the motion and Betty Hunter voting against it. The count was contested by two members who stated they had abstained.** During the discussion of the accuracy of the count, Jim King instructed Rich Buss to distribute the informal plan to the members and it was then available for view by CACMP. **A substitute motion was made by Heath Garrett that CACMP recommend to the City Council that Hickory Hills Park be a priority for development and that we will consider the informal plan or iterations of it at the next meeting. Heath Garrett made that motion and Betty Hunter seconded it. The motion was adopted unanimously.** All but one copy of the informal plan were retrieved by Rich Buss. Since the informal plan has now been seen by the group, **Cindy Suto felt the special meeting now scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> would be unnecessary and she moved that it be cancelled and that the next meeting be the regularly scheduled meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Melody Unger seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.**

Michelle Cooper Kelly announced that the Recreation Center Committee is visiting three Roswell City Recreation Center sites next week and has no formal recommendations this week.

The next meeting will be on April 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m, at the same location.

Respectfully submitted, this 4th day of March, 2010

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Jim Morris, Secretary